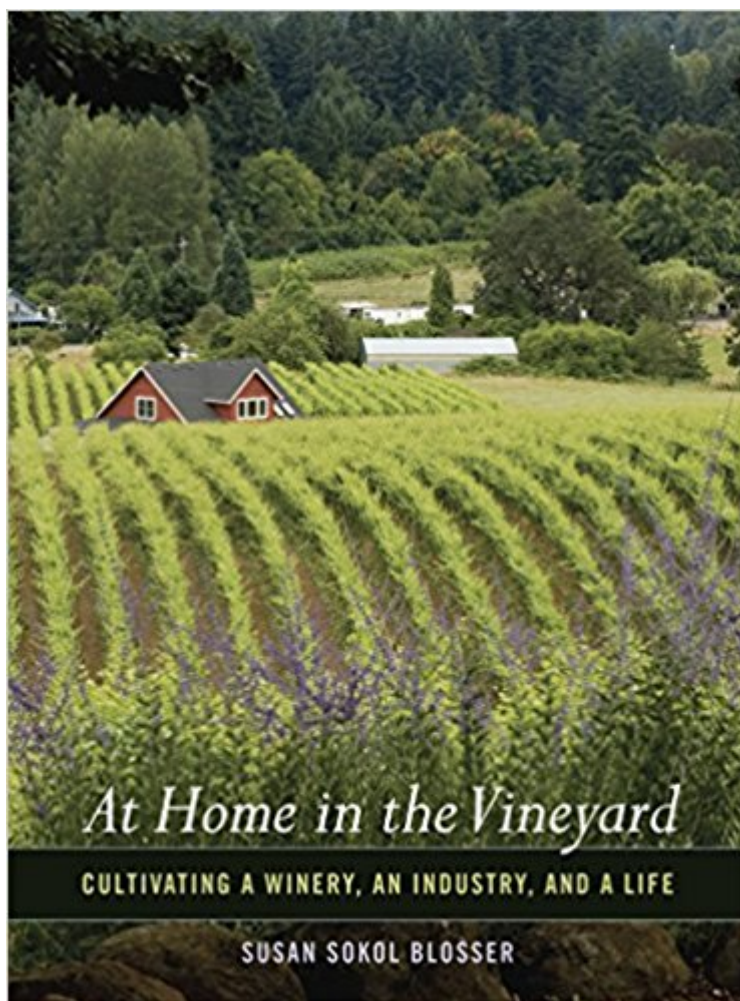


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# At Home In The Vineyard: Cultivating A Winery, An Industry, And A Life



## Synopsis

This moving, evocative memoir, woven with lyrical descriptions of the sights and smells of vineyard life, tells the inspirational story of one woman's journey to success in an industry run mostly by men. *At Home in the Vineyard*, filled with colorful characters and unexpected experiences, brings a local rural community vividly alive as Oregon wine pioneer and industry icon Susan Sokol Blosser recounts how she fell in love with a vineyard, learned how to run it, and ultimately achieved her vision of producing Pinot Noirs to rival those of Burgundy. An intimate family story, *At Home in the Vineyard* also gives a candid insider's view of Oregon's flourishing wine industry. Sokol Blosser begins her narrative in the 1970s, when, as a young, idealistic wife, she helped her husband make his wild idea of planting a vineyard in the Dundee Hills become a reality. By the book's final pages, she has become president of Sokol Blosser Winery, widely respected for gaining national visibility and for producing world-class wines, especially the elusive Pinot Noir. Along the way, Sokol Blosser tells how she learned to do everything from driving a tractor and managing a picking crew to selling Oregon wine in Manhattan. She also shares some special accomplishments: how she instituted values of environmental sustainability and social responsibility at the vineyard, integrated family and business life, and successfully brought the second generation on board.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1970, the Blossers were in their mid-20s, having spent most of their four married years in graduate school or on memorable road trips in their Volkswagon camper. Then, as she puts it, "Bill

and I each gave birth." She produced their first child, while he bought their first lot of vineyard land in Oregon. As Blosser explains, in 1970 American wine was supposed to be made in California, if at all. But they were guessing that pinot noir, in particular, might work well in a colder, damper climate if the soil were right and the growing calendar adjusted to work with the weather. The Blossers, together with other Oregon pioneers, built up a well-regarded wine industry, which in recent years has become one of the state's more environmentally progressive industries as well. Blosser tells the story of how they learned both viticulture and small business management. True, their marriage ended after 33 years, but she's not one to dwell on the negative in this upbeat narrative. While Blosser's story might be interesting for a vintner hopeful, general readers may find it flat. Blosser might make great wines, but her writing could use a little more flavor. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Just like the complex Pinot Noir crafted by Sokol Blosser, Susan's life story is layered and rich. Even if you're not a wine lover, you will love reading this touching memoir." - Leslie Sbrocco, author of *Wine for Women: A Guide to Buying, Pairing, and Sharing Wine* "At last, an intelligent, literate, first-hand observation of the beginnings of the Oregon wine industry." - David Adelsheim, President, Adelsheim Vineyard "This is a coming-of-age story of a wine region and of a woman. It is about finding and following your destiny, but also shaping it yourself." - Andrea (Immer) Robinson, Master Sommelier and author, *Andrea's Complete Wine Course for Everyone*"

Just an amazing book! I've read it twice now. It's truly inspiring. My fiance read it and I loved it when he said, "You know this can be done. And she did it while raising a family!" So if you are looking for a book that realistically portrays life on a vineyard both business and agriculture this quick and very entertaining read is your book!

This book was given as a reading assignment by Anson Mount to his fans as he was preparing for his role in the movie *Vintage*. A lot of information on the beginnings and long tedious work needed to start and maintain a fledgeling winery and turning it into a viable operation. It was not just a book of facts, but a glimpse into the dreams and personal lives of the people starting this new operation in Oregon. Good read.

Excellent read. As a fan of Oregon wines I was fascinated by this book. But the real pleasure was the story of a strong woman who successfully made this winery one of the best in America.

This book was even better than I had hoped it would be. I planned on giving it as a gift, and when it arrived, it looked brand new. The added bonus (not described in the listing) was a "Cheers..." signature by Susan Sokol Blosser. What a thrill!

Great book about a family building a vineyard. I wanted to drink lots of wine while reading this book.

one cent?! signed? Very sorry for the author, but I am enjoying the book.

I found Hargrave's autobiography pompous and dull, but Susan Sokol Blosser's account of building a life in the Dundee Hills of Oregon speaks to me on many levels--as a woman working in the wine industry, a woman working with her husband, a woman running her own business, and a mother. Susan turns her trials into triumphs and exercises a sense of humor along the way. From the Great Goose Experiment to the day her tearful son rides his bike all the way to school by himself, this is a story that will transport you into "The Life" of owning a vineyard and winery, with a judicial salting of reality and romance.

interesting but just okay

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